

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA

ORDER AMENDING RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Under the authority vested in this Court to provide by rule for the procedure employed in all courts of this state and in furtherance of this Court's constitutional authority relating to matters of professional discipline, *Rule 8.4* of the *Rules of Professional Conduct* is amended to read as follows (deletions shown by ~~striking~~ and new text shown by underlining):

Rule 8.4. Misconduct

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

(a) violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;

(b) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;

(c) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;

(d) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;

(e) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official; ~~or~~

(f) knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law; or

(g) engage in conduct, in a professional capacity, manifesting, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice based upon race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, or similar factors. Legitimate advocacy respecting the foregoing factors does not violate this subsection.

These amendments shall take effect April 1, 2002.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to forward a copy of this order to the Clerk of each Circuit Court in the state of Indiana; Attorney General of Indiana; Legislative Services Agency and its Office of Code Revision; Administrator, Indiana Supreme Court; Administrator, Indiana Court of Appeals; Administrator, Indiana Tax Court; Public Defender of Indiana; Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission; Indiana Supreme Court Commission for Continuing Legal Education; Indiana Board of Law Examiners; Indiana Judicial Center; Division of State Court Administration; the libraries of all law schools in this state; the Michie Company; and the West Group.

The West Group is directed to publish this Order in the advance sheets of this Court.

The Clerks of the Circuit Courts are directed to bring this Order to the attention of all judges within their respective counties and to post this Order for examination by the Bar and general public.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this _____ day of December, 2001.

Randall T. Shepard
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.